

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 10

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY JUKU

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SUBJECT: FIFTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS

REF: JAKARTA 4177

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1. FIFTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN LABOR MINISTER CONCLUDED APRIL

TENTH AFTER SESSIONS ON APRIL EIGHTH AND NINTH IN MELBOURNE HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA; DELEGATION FROM EACH ASIAN ADDRESSEE POST ATTENDED WITH MINISTER OR SECRETARY OF LABOR IN MAJORITY OF CASES HEADING EACH GROUP. FORMAT OF CONFERENCE WAS TO HOLD PLENARY SESSIONS EACH DAY WITH SEPARATE SESSIONS FOR TWO PANELS WHICH CONSIDERED:

(A) THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF EMPLOYMENT; AND

(B) PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN LABOR AND RELATED FIELDS.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE ALL DELEGATIONS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AND SIGNED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH NOTED THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE CONFERENCE UNIMOUSLY NOMINATED BLAS F. OPLE, PHILIPPINES SECRETARY OF LABOR, AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION. CONFERENCE DECIDED TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIA AS THE ASIA REGIONAL GROUP'S CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE I.L.O. GOVERNING BODY FOR 1975/76.

(B) CONFERENCE DECIDED ALSO TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO SECURE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN REGION AT LEAST ONE OF FOUR ADDITIONAL TITULAR SEATS AND ONE OF THE EXPECTED FOUR ADDITIONAL DEPUTY SEATS ON THE I.L.O. GOVERNING BODY. SUBSEQUENTLY, CONFERENCE PICKED FOR TITULAR STATES: AUSTRALIA, IRAN, PAKISTAN; AND FOR DEPUTY SEATS: SRI LANKA, INDONESIA, THAILAND. (BANGLADESH DELEGATE WAS NOT ABLE TO ASSOCIATE WITH FOREGOING DECISIONS BUT WILL ADVISE HIS GOVERNMENT).

(C) TURNING TO REPRESENTATION ON ASIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE DECIDED AT GENEVA DURING MAY OR JUNE, CONFERENCE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT REGIONAL INTEREST WOULD BE BEST SERVED IF BANGLADESH WOULD BECOME MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE. FINAL DECISION WAS HELD OVER FOR CAUCUS MEETING, TO BE HELD IN GENEVA, DURING SIXTIETH SESSION. (LABBAT NOTES ALL THESE MATTERS WERE FIRST DISCUSSED AT ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA. SEE REFTEL).

3. BALANCE OF COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED NO NOTABLY NEW MATTERS.
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CONFERENCE NOTED AT LENGTH THEIR UNANIMOUS DESIRE TO PURSUE CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMS IN THE FIELDS OF TRAINING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND ALL MANPOWER AREAS. THEY AGREED TO EXCHANGE EXPERTISE AND TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AND USE ASSISTANCE OF I.L.O. , U.N.D.P. AND RELATED AGENCIES, AND UNILATERAL PROGRAMS OF THE MOST ADVANCED NATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE REGION.

4. AMIR GHASSEM MOINI, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF

IRAN, WHO SERVED AS CONFERENCE VICE-CHAIRMAN, EXTENDED INVITATION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT FOR CONFERENCE TO HOLD ITS NEXT SESSION IN TEHRAN DURING AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1976, REPEAT 1976. INVITATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

COMMENT: CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY HOSTS WERE MORE THAN ADEQUATE WITH FULL-TIME GOA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO EACH DELEGATION. SITE OF CONFERENCE WAS NEWLY-OPENED HILTON HOTEL. TRANSPORTATION PLANNED TO BE BY GOA FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES WAS UPSET BY SUDDEN STRIKE OF CHAUFFEURS. MASS MOVEMENT OF DELEGATES, WHEN NECESSARY, WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY BUS. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS CONFERENCE ON TWO OCCASIONS, WAS FORCED TO STAY AWAY BY PRESSURE OF PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS. HIS UNFORTUNATE ABSENCE WAS NOTED WITH SOME DISPLEASURE BY MINISTERS, WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH MANPOWER PROBLEMS OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. POORLY ARRANGED PUBLICITY FOR CONFERENCE RESULTED IN VIRTUALLY NO ATTENTION AT ALL BEING PAID BY AUSTRALIAN MEDIA, ALTHOUGH SOME OVERSEAS RADIO AND TV COMPANIES WERE OBSERVABLY BUSY.

LABBAT WILL AIR-POUCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE; DELEGATES LIST; PANEL REPORTS; AND COMPANY STUDY PAPERS TO EACH ADDRESSEE.
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